(b) whether there is any delay in its commissioning, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it has been designed to have Aero-Bridges as in Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai Domestic Airports; and by when they will be installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The domestic departure terminal I-A at Delhi airport, affected by fire in October, 1996 was scheduled to be completed by December, 1997. The civil and electrical works of this building were completed in January, 1998. Thereafter, licence fee, and terms of allotment were sorted out with Indian Airlines. During this period interior decoration of the terminal building and Restaurant were undertaken. The building was commissioned on 2nd July, 1998.

(c) The departure terminal I-A at IGI airport has not been designed to have aerobridges because of operational constraints.

Private air taxi operation in the States of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab

3683. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in the States of Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir linked with air services, through Private Air Taxis;

(b) the details thereof, flight-wise/day-wise and district-wise;

(c) the remaining districts which are proposed to be linked with air services in Assam during the year 1998-99; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No place is connected by private airlines in Punjab. Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Jorhat in Assam are airlinked by private airlines service. While Sahara India Airlines operates 4 days-a-week Delhi/Guwahati/Dibrugarh/Guwahati/Delhi and 3 days-a-week Delhi/Guwahati/Delhi services, jet Airways operates a daily Delhi/Guwahati/Bagdogra/Delhi; 5 days-a-week Calcutta/Guwahati/Calcutta; and 2 days-a-week Clacutta/Jorhat/Calcutta services.

Srinagar and Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir are connected by a daily Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar/Delhi flight of Jet Airways.

(c) and (d) As per Government Policy, airlines are free to operate/provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

Maintenance Service to International Carriers

3684. DR. MOHAN BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has approached all major international carriers offering to take-up engineering services including major maintenance to earn additional revenue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and whether any agreement has been signed between Air India and International Airlines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Air India is at present providing Engineering services as part of Ground Handling Agreements to 16 international airlines. In addition, it has offered Engineering Services to 17 other international airlines who are having equipment similar to that of Air India. However, no agreement has been signed so far by Air India with these airlines.